

JOHN B. CLEVELAND,
RECEIVER.

THE PORT ROYAL & WESTERN CAROLINA RAILWAY COMPY.
THE AUGUSTA & KNOXVILLE RAILROAD CO.

SPARTANBURG, S. C., Jan. 18, 1894

Supt. of the Mint,

Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Sir:

A few months ago a small farmer at Gowensville, in Greenville County about 22 miles of this place, turned up with his hoe in a new ground field a "lot of gold "coin"; I can't say exactly how much but I saw yesterday 53 pieces. There are some rather strange circumstances connected with this find, and I write to you purely as a matter of information to you and to get your views as to the how the "coin" got there. In the first place, every piece was gold, the dates ran from 1714 to 1791. In the second place, every piece was foreign "coin", most all English of the reign of George Third; some Portugees; some Spanish and a few French pieces. Another strange fact, the "coin" appearantly was not burried, it was simply scattered over the ground within the circumference of a few feet; a good many pieces were mutilated badly and two or three had holes punched through the center or about the center, which were plugged up ~~appearantly~~ ^{neatly} with the same metal and with two neat

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SPARTANBURG, S. C., 189—

initials engraved on the plug. These "coins" must have been
lost or hidden about one hundred years ago. At that time the
country was a wild^{er}ness.

I would be glad if you would let me hear what you think about
it, and can you give me any explanation why the coins were plug-
ed? When was the first American coin made?

Yours very truly,

John B. Cleveland

NARA RG104, Entry 1, Box 184

The Port Royal & Western Carolina Railway Comp'y.
The Augusta & Knoxville Railroad Co.
Spartanburg, S.C.,
January 18, 1894

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Philadelphia, Pa.

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